

**Remarks of Rep. Henry A. Waxman  
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce  
MPAA Panel on “The Business of Show Business”  
April 21, 2009**

I am very pleased to frame the discussion for our next panel.

My premise is: The business of show business is the business of America.

For nearly 35 years, I have been privileged to represent the congressional district that is the spiritual and corporate home to much of the American movie and television production industry.

And it is an industry — a successful and dynamic industry.

In the first comprehensive study of its kind ever commissioned, and which has been released this morning by MPAA, the economic clout and reach of the American motion picture and television industry has been authoritatively documented.

In 2007, the U.S. motion picture and television industry was responsible for:

- 2.5 million American jobs. And they are high-paying jobs, with an average salary of nearly \$75,000 per year
- \$13 billion in tax payments at the federal, state, and local levels;
- And exports that constituted a net trade surplus of \$13.6 billion.

When President Obama and the leadership in the Congress talk about restoring America's prosperity, and getting our country moving again with 21st century jobs, they are talking about successful, high tech, high-paying jobs that lead the world in the products it makes.

And that is exactly the benchmark that is met by the American motion picture and television industry.

It is an industry for good times — and hard times. Box office was up 2% last year — and by almost 8% in the first 10 weeks of this year.

As Dan Glickman told an industry conference in March: “When the going gets tough, the tough get going to the movies for some relief.”

You provide not only pay checks to 2.5 million Americans, but some entertainment and escape for people who need some well-deserved relief, for their families and children, from the pressures of the worst economic downturn since the Depression.

When we worry about how successfully we as a country will perform in the cut-throat competitive global economy of the 21st century, we are heartened by what the motion picture and television industry has been for America since its inception:

The world wide leader in entertainment. This industry shapes the culture of the world. It is the most powerful projection of American soft power in our arsenal.

The result: Billions of people overseas vote with their wallets every year for the American entertainment industry.

There is no close runner up.

The U.S. box office was up 2% last year at home — but it was up 7% internationally, and worth \$28 billion, a record.

In February, the MPAA opened a local office in Mumbai to serve as the voice and advocate of the American motion picture industry in India — the most significant new movie, television and video market in the world today. The office will help promote, protect, and expand the industry's interests in India.

It is this kind of proactive investment abroad that capitalizes on the strengths of this dynamic industry at home.

And at home, the motion picture and television industry has universal reach. There is film and television production activity in each of the 50 States, and here in Washington D.C. — even before President Obama did YouTube.

For every day of filming, on average almost a quarter million dollars is injected into the local economy. “Batman” alone brought \$35 million to Chicago — where they are still investigating where it went.

The American motion picture industry is an American success story. Movies won the hearts of America when my grandparents first went to see the talkies. And it has been an enduring love affair ever since.

Today the motion picture and television production industry enriches the country culturally, builds it economically, transforms it technologically, and make America ever more competitive globally.

It is this story — not the greatest story ever told, but it's not bad — that is getting the full treatment this morning.

I look forward with you to our next panel and an excellent discussion.

Thank you.